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Agenda item 4

Recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by the Chairman

The Commission:

1. Reaffirms that the principles and purposes contained in the Charter of the United Nations together constitute the universal foundation for the maintenance of international peace and security in the pursuance of nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Also reaffirms the close interrelationship between nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and that they are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving a world without nuclear weapons. Notes the five-point Proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

2. Recalls the achievements of the disarmament machinery established at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, but expresses grave concern regarding its current status, including the lack of substantive progress for more than a decade in both the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament. Notes, on the basis of Assembly resolution 67/53, the work of the group of governmental experts in 2014 and 2015, which will make recommendations on possible aspects that could contribute to but not negotiate a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices on the basis of document CD/1299 and the mandate contained therein.

   Urges the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating body to agree on and implement as soon as possible a balanced and comprehensive programme of work on all the issues in its agenda.

3. Recognizes that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among all States of the region concerned and, as appropriate, in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1999 substantive session, enhances regional and international peace and security.

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Encourages further efforts to strengthen existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, and to establish new zones, in order to enhance global and regional peace and security, strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contribute towards nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

4. Recalls that the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons decided, inter alia, that "the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultation with the States of the region, will convene a conference in 2012, to be attended by all States of the Middle East, on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at by the States of the region and with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States".

Urges the Secretary-General and the co-sponsors of the 1995 resolution, in consultations with the States of the region, to continue working with the facilitator to convene the conference without any further delay as soon as possible in 2014.

5. Reaffirms the vital role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in promoting international peace and security. Also reaffirms the urgent need for the nuclear-weapon States to implement the steps leading to nuclear disarmament in such a way as to promote international stability, peace and security, and based on the principle of undiminished and increased security for all. Further reaffirms the inalienable right of all States to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with their respective treaty obligations.

6. Also reaffirms that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and underlines the necessity for all States to fulfil their respective obligations and to fully implement all agreed nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations.

Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the Commission recognizes the legitimate interest of States in receiving legally binding security assurances.

7. Remains deeply concerned by the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.

Reaffirms the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.

8. Underscores the importance of disarmament and non-proliferation education.

In adopting these recommendations, the Commission, taking into account different approaches, recognizes the importance of continuing efforts in relevant forums to achieve the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons, thus achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.